

2017 -- H 6253

LC002761

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

HOUSE RESOLUTION

CONGRATULATING THE NORTH SMITHFIELD "WE THE PEOPLE" STUDENTS AND
TEAM TEACHERS ON WINNING THE 2017 STATEWIDE COMPETITION

Introduced By: Representatives Newberry, Morin, Phillips, Winfield, and Keable

Date Introduced: May 25, 2017

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, Thirty-five students from North Smithfield High School, under the expert
2 guidance of their American Government honors class teacher and Social Studies Department
3 chair, Mrs. Natalie O'Brien, and teachers Hannah Cevoli and Mark Hickox, won the "We the
4 People" statewide competition. This was the eleventh consecutive year that the North Smithfield
5 team won the state competition; and

6 WHEREAS, As a result of taking the state title, the team earned the honor of representing
7 Rhode Island in the National Finals of the "We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution
8 Competition" held on April 21st through the 24th at the National Conference Center in
9 Washington, D.C.; and

10 WHEREAS, "We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution Competition" is
11 sponsored by the Center for Civic Education and is an annual competition held in Washington,
12 D.C., for American high school students. Teams are divided into six units, each comprised of
13 three or more members, and each team focuses on a particular area of Constitutional interest; and

14 WHEREAS, For the competition, members of the North Smithfield teams delivered
15 prepared statements on a specific Constitutional topic and answered a series of questions asked by
16 an esteemed panel of judges. Prior to the competition, the teams prepared for a wide variety of
17 potential follow-up questions, as they were not allowed to use any materials during the
18 competition, and were not forewarned of what questions would be posed until they were asked.
19 The format of the competition requires students to develop the important skills of critical thinking

1 and performing under pressure; and

2 WHEREAS, During the 30th Annual We the People National Finals, before a packed
3 audience and a panoply of prestigious state and local officials serving as judges, this year's North
4 Smithfield team units demonstrated their amazing determination, scholarship and teamwork and
5 have eminently earned our utmost praise and recognition; now, therefore be it

6 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
7 Providence Plantations hereby extends our congratulations for winning the 2017 Rhode Island
8 "We the People" Competition to the team's coaches, Mrs. Natalie O'Brien, Hannah Cevoli, and
9 Mark Hickox, and team members, Maxwell Bischoff, Alexia Brandao, Alexandra Boutelle, Kayla
10 Butler, Andrew Cabral, Nicole Connell, Ethan Corriveau, Elizabeth Dagesse, Matthew DiNezza,
11 Cole Dubois, Erica Enright, Michael Ethier, Melody Fontaine, Thomas Fura, James Hanlon, Ian
12 Hartley, Jackson Laferriere, Nathan Lamoureux, Kate Lapierre, Kristiana Lapierre, Noah
13 Lemoine, Nathan Masi, Samantha Mattos, Quinn Parent, Anthony Parente, Paige Pessia, Madison
14 Reynolds, Hannah Samek, Rachel Shaw, Megan Skinner, Victoria Thurley, Abigail Votta, Lucas
15 Whitton, Liam Zonin, and Forrest Zuba. We moreover wish all the team members much success
16 in all their future endeavors; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
18 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Mrs. Natalie O'Brien.

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